National Assessment and Accreditation System – UNISON Survey

Completed by 1,213 social workers between February the 15th and March the 3rd.

Did your council take part in the 'proof of concept' pilot for the National Assessment and Accreditation System?

Yes – 10%

No – 37%

Don't know – 53%

Did you yourself participate in any of the tests of the system when it was piloted?

Yes all – 1%

Yes partly – 3%

My council did but I did not take part 2%

No – 94%

In your opinion is the introduction of a new National Assessment and Accreditation System likely to result in more or less pressure and obligations being placed on your local council or upon individual social workers?

Local councils

More pressure – 93%

Less pressure – 7%

Individual social workers

More pressure - 99%

Less pressure – 1%

Do you have enough time available within your role to prepare for and undertake an assessment and accreditation process?

Yes – 3%

No – 97%

Irrespective of the National Assessment and Accreditation System do you have access to good quality training and development in your workplace?

Yes – 73%

No – 27%

Considering the staffing levels and resources available at your local council, do you consider that the proposed process of assessment and accreditation for social workers can be done without having a detrimental impact on the delivery of social work services, social workers' working conditions?

Yes – 7%

No – 93%

Does the introduction of the National Assessment and Accreditation System by the Government address the main concerns that social work and social services are facing?

Yes – 1%

No – 99%

Do you support the introduction of the new National Assessment and Accreditation System?

Yes – 3%

No – 60%

Don't know enough about it to answer – 37%

What should the Government's priorities be for social work? (rank in order of importance)

Overall investment of more money into local councils social services budgets – 58%

Introducing a new National Assessment and Accreditation System – 2%

Better availability and funding for current post qualifying learning opportunities – 4%

Action to help limit caseloads – 30%

Improved working facilities (e.g. IT equipment/streamline case management systems) – 5%

Is the National Assessment and Accreditation System value for money?

Yes – 2%

No – 98%

Does the National Assessment and Accreditation System represent a good use of skilled social workers' time both in preparing for and taking the test, and for those senior practitioners who will move away from direct practice in order to prepare and mark/assess the tests?

Yes – 2%

No – 98%

The Government has said that it "intends to fund the rollout of the National Assessment and Accreditation System to 2020 at least." If it goes ahead who should be the main funder of the assessment and accreditation system after 2020?

The Government – 94%

Local authorities and other employers – 2%

Individual social workers via their fees to the social work regulator – 4%

Who do you consider should fund the training and development opportunities to prepare social workers to undertake the assessment?

The Government – 93%

Local authorities and other employers – 6%

Individual social workers via their fees to the social work regulator – 1%

Do you consider that the process outlined in the consultation document can accurately and fairly assess the standard of practice of individual social workers?

Yes – 4%

No – 96%

Overall, do you think that the National Assessment and Accreditation System will be beneficial to social workers?

Yes – 6%

No – 94%

Will it be beneficial to service users?

Yes – 9%

No – 91%

Do you consider that there is a risk that the new National Assessment and Accreditation System will unfairly penalise individual social workers?

Yes – 89%

No – 11%

Do you consider that that the introduction of a new National Assessment and Accreditation System will be used to support social workers and improve access to learning and development?

Yes – 10%

No – 90%